

THIS 9/11 "BIG LIE" FEST DESIGNED TO MANIPULATE THE UPCOMING ELECTION IN EXCHANGE FOR EVER-GREATER MEDIA CONSOLIDATION (and who knows what else...? All I know is, it's *DIRTY* and you should be ON it...) IS ONE OF THE BETTER EXAMPLES WE HAVE HAD LATELY (though examples emerge constantly...) OF *WHY* WE NEED A RETURN TO THE _FAIRNESS_DOCTRINE_. I guarantee that if Disney had to provide six commercial-free hours for an all-too-easy-to-write REBUTTAL of their hatchet job, THEY WOULD DROP THIS OBVIOUS MANIPULATION OF THE PUBLIC like a hot rock.

I STRONGLY disapprove of any relaxation or elimination of the public-interest Limits on media ownership, including the considerable consolidation which has already taken place in the past decade. Localism and diversity are not *options*: They are the very cornerstones of a democratic-republican media system, and WE CANNOT AFFORD TO COMPROMISE THEM IN ANY WAY, EVEN INSOFAR AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST TWO DECADES. I suspect some of you are *happy* to keep the People *ignorant* and *busy* -- It's a lot like the old saw about keeping a woman barefoot and pregnant. BUT ANY OF YOU WHO THINK THIS WAY ARE ULTIMATELY GOING TO SHOOT *YOURSELVES* IN THE FOOT, AND YOU SHOULD EITHER *CHANGE* OR *STEP* *DOWN*.

Few could doubt the obvious truth that MEDIA OWNERSHIP *MATTERS* -- Duh... That's why your friends are busy buying it all up!! -- and it determines the content we receive over the public airwaves (again, DUH). We need look no further than the ongoing scandal over ABC's free political advertisement for the Far Right, in the guise of the "true story" of the 9/11 attacks, which willfully distorts history about a national tragedy for BRAZEN political reasons. We need local broadcast station owners who will serve the local public interest, not those of faraway corporate owners who wish to standardize the diet of all information-consumers on a thin pabulum lacking the requisite intellectual nutrition for a healthy republic. WE ALSO NEED AT LEAST A *CERTAIN* AMOUNT OF BUILT-IN *FAIRNESS*: EQUAL TIME FOR DISSENTING VIEWPOINTS. Frankly, it is my impression that not only are you not interested in that, but that you see it as a detriment to you own interests. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE NOTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE? Stewardship of the -->Public<-- airwaves is a *very* serious responsibility that merits true public accountability. THESE AIRWAVES ARE A COMMON RESOURCE BELONGING TO *ALL* THE PEOPLE, NOT JUST YOUR WEALTHY FRIENDS. AND WE ARE GOING TO GET THEM BACK, if it means firing every last one of you in the Executive and Legislative Branches who refuse to hear our voice.

Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the dominance of concentrated economic power in the marketplace of ideas -- a critical part of balancing the public service mission of the various media outlets over against their private profit motives. Our democracy requires the free flow of information from a broad range of diverse voices. I, AND MANY LIKE ME, ARE NOT AT ALL CONVINCED THAT YOU AGREE WITH THIS FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH; AND *THAT* IS A

PROBLEM.

Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the to the homogenization of content in radio and television to the point of their having become AT BEST watered-down SUBSTITUTES for the bona fide informing and educating of the populace, at _worst_ the tools of *PROPAGANDA* for those who currently hold the reins of power. Permitting cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, or allowing further concentration in local television markets, will only worsen the problems we already have. EVENTUALLY THESE TRENDS WILL MEAN THE LOSS OF *YOUR* OWN VOICE FOR *YOU*, TOO. BUT BY THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR YOU TO CHANGE THEM.

When the FCC attempted to weaken and remove media ownership limits in 2003, millions of Americans rose up in protest. Congress and the courts ultimately intervened to turn back that misguided regulatory process. Now that these same rules are being foisted upon us again, the FCC should this time stand firm with the PUBLIC, WHO *OWN* THE AIRWAVES, WHO HAVE AN INNATE *RIGHT* TO *CHOICES* IN MEDIA, against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote not only to *halt* but *reverse* media consolidation is a vote to *restore* and *preserve* our Democratic Republic.